



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a binder resin; and

a colorant; and

an inorganic particulate material disposed on a surface of the toner particles,

wherein the toner particles have a surface roughness of between 1 and 30 nm, a standard deviation of the surface roughness of between 10 and 90 nm and include 1 to 20 convexities per 1  $\mu\text{m}$  having a height not less than 10 nm, and include a convexity having a vertical interval not less than 10 nm between a bottom of a concavity and a top of the convexity between 1 and 20 pieces/ $\mu\text{m}$  in number,

wherein the toner has an average circularity of between 0.93 and 1.00.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The toner according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein an amount not greater than 30% of the toner particles have a circularity less than 0.93.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner has a volume-average particle diameter of between 2.0 and 6.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and a ratio of the volume-average particle diameter to a number-average particle diameter of between 1.00 and 1.40.

Claim 5 (Original): The toner according to claim 4, wherein the toner has a ratio of a surface roughness to the volume-average particle diameter of between 0.2 and 6.0.

Claim 6 (Original): The toner according to claim 5, wherein the toner has a shape factor of between 100 and 140 and a ratio of the surface roughness to the shape factor of between 0.007 and 0.30.

Claim 7 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner is granulated in a liquid medium.

Claim 8 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a resin, wherein the resin is different from the binder resin and disposed on the surface of the toner particles.

Claim 9 (Original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner particles comprise a release agent.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a toner, comprising:  
dissolving or dispersing a polyester prepolymer having a functional group including a nitrogen atom, a polyester resin, a colorant and a release agent in an organic solvent to prepare a toner constituent liquid; and

dispersing the toner constituent liquid in an aqueous medium including at least one of a crosslinking agent and an elongation agent to perform at least one of a crosslinking reaction and an elongation reaction to cross-link or elongate the polyester prepolymer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The toner according to claim 7, wherein the liquid medium comprises ~~a resin~~ an organic fine particulate material having a volume-average

particle diameter of between 20 and 150 nm, and wherein the ~~resin~~ organic fine particulate material is disposed on a surface of the toner.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The toner according to claim 11, wherein the ~~resin~~ organic fine particulate material comprises a spherical shape.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The toner according to claim 11, wherein the ~~resin~~ organic fine particulate material ~~has the shape of a member selected from the group consisting of spindles, disks, spindle disks, amorphous flat plates and mixed shapes thereof~~ comprises one of a spindle, disk, spindle disk and amorphous flat plate shape.

Claim 14 (Original): The toner according to claim 7, wherein the toner is disposed between 10 min and 23 hrs at a temperature of between 25 and 50 °C after being granulated in the liquid medium.

Claim 15 (Original): A two-component developer comprising:  
the toner according to Claim 1; and  
a magnetic carrier.

Claim 16 (Original): A one-component developer comprising:  
the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image developer comprising:  
an image developing unit configured to develop an electrostatic latent image on a ~~latent image bearer~~ photoreceptor with a developer to form a toner image, wherein the

developer comprises ~~one of the two-component developer according to Claim 15 and the one-component developer according to Claim 16.~~

Claim 18 (Original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

- a latent image bearer configured to bear a latent image;
- a charger configured to uniformly charge a surface of the latent image bearer;
- an irradiator configured to irradiate the surface of the latent image bearer based on image data to form an electrostatic latent image on the surface thereof;
- the image developer according to claim 17, the image developer configured to feed a toner to the electrostatic latent image to form a visual toner image;
- a transferer configured to transfer the visual toner image to a transfer body; and
- a fixer configured to fix the visual toner image on the transfer body.

Claim 19 (New): An image developer comprising:

- an image developing unit configured to develop an electrostatic latent image on a photoreceptor with a developer to form a toner image, wherein the developer comprises the one-component developer according to Claim 16.

Claim 20 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising:

- a latent image bearer configured to bear a latent image;
- a charger configured to uniformly charge a surface of the latent image bearer;
- an irradiator configured to irradiate the surface of the latent image bearer based on image data to form an electrostatic latent image on the surface thereof;
- the image developer according to claim 19, the image developer configured to feed a toner to the electrostatic latent image to form a visual toner image;

a transferer configured to transfer the visual toner image to a transfer body; and  
a fixer configured to fix the visual toner image on the transfer body.